

Message Text

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20/15

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 ISO-00 NEA-10 AF-06 ARA-06 FEA-01

ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00

FPC-01 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01

PM-04 USIA-06 SAM-01 OES-03 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04

TRSE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 /123 W
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R 031604Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6817

INFO AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (ADDIGING EO THRU SUBJ LINES)

E.O. 11652: GDS

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TAGS: ENRG, OPEC, AU

SUBJECT: OPEC PRICE INCREASE

1. ALTHOUGH LOCAL PRESS COMMENTED WIDELY ON OPEC PRICE INCREASES, RANGING FROM GUARDED CRITICISM TO ANALYSES OF IMPACT OF INCREASE ON CONSUMER/PRODUCER DIALOGUE, THERE HAVE BEEN NO OFFICIAL STATEMENTS FROM GOA. THIS IS NOT SURPRISING IN VIEW OF PROXIMITY OF OPEC DECISION TO LOCAL NATIONAL ELECTIONS THIS WEEKEND AND THE OBVIOUS GOVERNMENT DESIRE NOT TO WORRRY PUBLIC WITH IMPLICATIONS OF INCREASE. TRADE MINISTER STARIBACHER, IN THE ONLY OFFICIAL COMMENT, ASSURED PUBLIC THAT THERE WOULD BE NO INCREASE IN THE GASOLINE PRICE AT THE MOMENT AND THAT BEFORE DECISIONS COULD BE TAKEN DOMESTIC CALCULATIONS AND SUPPLIES WOULD HAVE TO BE CHECKED THOROUGHLY (COMMENT: LAST INCREASE IN PRICES OF FUEL AND HEATING OIL IN AUSTRIA TOOK PLACE IN FEBRUARY 1974. END COMMENT.).

2. GENERAL DIRECTOR BAUER, TOP EXECUTIVE OF AUSTRIA'S OIL AND MINERALS ADMINISTRATION (OEMV), TOLD EMBASSY OFFICER THAT IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO KNOW CRUDE PRICE PATTERN UNTIL OWMV NEGOTIATES NEW CONTRACTS WITH SUPPLIER COUNTRIES DURING NEXT FEW MONTHS. ASKE WHETHER HE ANTICIPATED ANY PRICE BREAKS OR DISCOUNTS, BAUER REPLIED THAT PRICES WOULD GO UP BUT DID NOT EXCLUDE POSSIBILITY OF "DIFFERENTIALS". "WE MUST WAIT AND SEEN" HE SAID. BAUER SPECULATED THAT INCREASES IN CONSUMER PRICES IN AUSTRIA WOULD MORE LIKELY OCCUR FOR HEATING OIL THAN FOR GASOLINE.

3. BAUER APPLAUDED PROJECT INDEPENDENCE AND FELT THAT US LEADERSHIP IN SPEEDING UP SELF-SUFFICIENCY AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF ALTERNATIVE ENERGY RESOURCES WAS A KEY FACTOR IN THE FUTURE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CONSUMERS AND PRODUCERS. BUCHANAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PETROLEUM, POLICIES, PRICES, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 OCT 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975VIENNA08478
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750346-0066
From: VIENNA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751085/aaaacyini.tel
Line Count: 96
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 APR 2003 by SmithRJ>; APPROVED <16 SEP 2003 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OPEC PRICE INCREASE
TAGS: ENRG, AU, OPEC
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006